

## COLLECTING HELIOTHINAE IN 1940.

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There is a certain hilltop northeast of Elgin, Illinois, entirely surrounded by cultivated fields, that is a veritable mine of interesting flora and fauna. This is where Maurice Bristol of Elgin, captured the first *Schinia gloriosa* and *Dasypoudea lucens*, both, species that have heretofore been reported only from Western and Southern points. Later, the food plants of these pretty moths were discovered and the moths successfully reared to maturity. *Schinia gloriosa* is found on *Liatris*, principally *Liatris cylindracea* and *scariosa*. Having learned the food plant, both moth and larva have since been found on the prairies northwest of Chicago and at Waukegan. They are doubtless present also in the Indiana dune region and other points in that direction where *Liatris scariosa* or *cylindracea* is plentiful. *Dasypoudea lucens* feeds on lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*) and has since been found at Waukegan where that plant is well represented.

This year (1940) on August 3, while looking for moths of *Schinia gloriosa* on that same hilltop at Elgin, three specimens of what was first assumed to be *Schinia imperspicua* were captured. Upon later investigation they proved to be *Schinia gracilentia*, another Texan species. These three specimens were quite fresh, and having risen from the shrubbery almost at my feet, I noted the plant, which was the same in each instance. Later, on August 24 when collecting on the hilltop again, the plant was in bloom and we succeeded in securing larvae which were then quite small. Additional moths, resting on the bloom, were also taken. The food plant is *Kuhnia eupatorioides*. Still later in the year, larger larvae were secured and with them larvae of yet another *Schinia*, slightly smaller. Relatively few pupae were obtained, and it remains to be seen whether any are of the second species. Judging from the size of the larva and its numerical preponderance, we are confident that the first larva found, an unusually interesting one, is that of *gracilentia*. A superficial description of this larva follows:

Head.—Yellow with two large black patches at apex and two smaller spots on side.

Body.—Densely covered with short hair giving it a velvety appearance. There is a whitish dorsal stripe followed by a bright orange yellow, shading laterally into another white area. The dorsal light band is broken by a series of olive gray spots that become longer and narrower toward the anal end and

form an irregular broken line. A shading of the same color borders the yellow band laterally, merging into the white. The entire body is covered with a number of shiny black spots or tubercles, these being distributed approximately as follows: The first thoracic segment has twelve, of which two dorsal spots are large and irregular about twice as long as wide, with a smaller round spot preceding each. The second segment has spots on the side, none dorsally. The third segment has a row of five on each side and another spot behind the row. Each abdominal segment has from 16 to 20 black tubercles, the first two having these tubercles ventrally also.

The mature larva is from 1 inch to 1.1 inch long. When disturbed it curls up and drops to the ground. It rolls easily on a smooth surface.

The second larva attains a length of about .75 inches. Head yellowish, two brown marks poorly defined, at apex. Body smooth, not hairy. General color gray brown, a slender dorsal line slightly paler than general color and disappearing posteriorly. Each segment has a diamond-shaped darker area dorsally with the pale line through center. These darker areas are outlined by irregular pale spots when seen through a strong lens. The general appearance is of a dark shade dorsally. Stigmata are black on an area slightly paler than the general color. As a whole the larva appears a dull gray brown with no pronounced markings, except a dark band dorsally and a slightly paler band laterally. Underside pale yellowish brown.

Mr. Leslie Banks captured a specimen of *Schinia tertia* at an electric light about two miles south of our hilltop, so there is a bare possibility that the second *Schinia* may prove to be that species.

Larvae of *Schinia trifascia* were found on *Eupatorium purpureum* at River Grove on September 8. These larvae were mostly of good size and pupated by September 22, much earlier than larvae found on *Eup. sessilifolium*. *Schinia brevis* was missed as a moth, but larvae were beaten from New England aster just south of Desplaines on October 13. Some were quite large, others less than half grown. Due to the fine Indian Summer weather, it was easy to bring these to maturity. No description of the larva was made. They feed in the customary way of *Schinias*, burying their heads in the pappus of the mature brown flower heads to reach the developing seed beneath.

With the larvae of *brevis*, a few larvae of *Heliothis phloxiphaga* and several of a brightly marked *Cucullia* were found, some of these fully mature.

Earlier in the year several specimens of *Heliolonche indiana* developed from pupae of larvae taken in 1938. These emerged May 26 to June 1, exactly on schedule with the customary time of flight. The same proved true of other 1938 pupae.

*Dasysondea lucens*, 1 specimen, June 20.

*Rhodocia aurantiago*, 2 specimens, July 9 and 11.

*Schinia trifascia*, several, August 1 to August 22.

I still have apparently good pupae of

*Heliolonche indiana* from larvae of 1938 and 1939.

*Schinia obscurata* " " of 1938 and 1939.

" *gloriosa* " " of 1939.

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**Gymnopolybia cayennensis (Fabricius) Introduced with Bananas in Texas.—A correction.** (Hymenoptera, Vespidae).—In 1939, I reported in this Bulletin (vol. XXXIV, p. 30) the finding of a supposed *Gymnopolybia areata* (Say) in a bunch of bananas at San Marcos, Texas. Only one rather poorly preserved worker or female was received at the time. Recently Mr. James E. Gillaspay sent me two more females (or workers) from the same lot and a more careful examination of these shows that my earlier identification was erroneous. These wasps lack the raised humeral collar of *areata* and have a more slender first tergite. They should be referred to *Gymnopolybia cayennensis* (Fabricius), a social wasp almost as widely distributed as *G. areata*. I have seen *cayennensis* from Brazil, Trinidad, British Guiana, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, and the Republic of Honduras.—J. Bequaert, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts.